

Wednesday, August 8, 2012

Santa Fe, NM – Congressman Ben Ray Luján of New Mexico's Third District highlighted today a number of grants announced by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) aimed at assisting what USDA considers socially disadvantaged farmers, ranchers, and landowners. The awards from the Outreach Assistance to Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers Competitive Grant Program will send more than \$1.3 million to five New Mexico organizations.

The grants enable tribes, educational institutions and non-profit organizations across the country to conduct training, outreach and technical assistance for these farmers and ranchers.

New Mexico's grant recipients:

- Regents of New Mexico State University – \$297,948
- Farm to Table – \$261,749
- Hispanic Farmers and Ranchers of America – \$300,000
- Taos County Economic Development Corporation – \$284,058
- New Mexico Acequia Association – \$202,518

"These important funds will enable leading organizations in New Mexico to provide valuable assistance to ranchers and farmers in our communities," Congressman Luján said.

"Strengthening our farmers and ranchers is essential to building a stronger economy and a stronger future in rural areas across New Mexico."

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